AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- comprising a railway switch element (12)—made from high-alloy steel, in which at least one alloy element has a content equal to at least 5% by weight, and a length of rail (14)—made from medium-alloy steel, directly connected to one another by a weld without deposition of metal, characterised in that wherein the length of rail (14) is formed from a medium-alloy low-carbon steel in which the carbon content is less than 0.55% by weight and which is a bainitic steel.
- 2. (currently amended) Stretch—The stretch of rail as claimed in Claim 1, characterised—in thatwherein the length of rail (14) is formed from a medium-alloy low-carbon steel in which the carbon content is less than 0.5% by weight.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) Stretch The stretch of rail as claimed in Claim 31, characterised in that wherein the bainitic

medium-alloy low-carbon steel is a bainitie steel without carbide.

- 5. (currently amended) Stretch The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that wherein the mediumalloy low-carbon steel forming the length of rail has the following composition by weight:
 - $[[\cdot]]$ 0.05% to 0.50% of carbon;
 - [[\cdot]] 0.5% to 2.5% of manganese;
 - [[·]] 0.6% to 3% of silicon or aluminium;
 - [[\cdot]] 0.25% to 3.1% of chromium; and
 - [[\cdot]] 0% to 0.9% of molybdenum.
- 6. (currently amended) Stretch The stretch of rail as claimed in Claim 5, characterised in that wherein the mediumalloy low-carbon steel forming the length of rail has a composition defined below:
 - [[·]] 0.28% to 0.36% of carbon;
 - [[\cdot]] 1.40% to 1.70% of manganese;
 - [[\cdot]] at most 0.03% of phosphorus;
 - [[·]] 0.01% to 0.03% of sulphur;
 - [[·]] at most 0.005% of aluminium;
 - [[\cdot]] 1% to 1.40% of silicon;
 - [[\cdot]] 0.40% to 0.60% of chromium;
 - [[·]] 0.08% to 0.20% of molybdenum;

- [[·]] at most 0.04% of titanium; and
- [[·]] at most 0.004% of boron.
- 7. (currently amended) Stretch—The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 1, characterised—in thatwherein the railway switch element made from high-alloy steel comprises 12% to 14% by weight of manganese.
- 8. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 1, wherein the railway switch element and the length of rail are welded by flash welding and forging.
- 9. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is no heat treatment after the welding of the railway switch element and the length of rail.
- 10. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switch element made from the high-alloy steel has a hardness between 170 and 230 HB.
- 11. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 6, wherein the medium-alloy low-carbon steel has a hardness between 350 and 390 HB.

12. (new) A stretch of rail comprising:

a railway switch element made from high-alloy steel, in which at least one alloy element has a content equal to at least 5% by weight, and

a length of rail made from medium-alloy steel, directly connected to the railway switch element by a weld without deposition of metal, wherein the length of rail made of medium-alloy steel consists essentially of a medium-alloy low-carbon steel in which the carbon content is less than 0.55% by weight and said medium-alloy low-carbon steel is bainitic.

- 13. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in claim 12, wherein the bainitic medium-alloy low-carbon steel forming the length of rail has the following composition by weight:
 - 0.05% to 0.50% of carbon;
 - 0.5% to 2.5% of manganese;
 - 0.6% to 3% of silicon or aluminium;
 - 0.25% to 3.1% of chromium; and
 - 0% to 0.9% of molybdenum.
- 14. (new) The stretch of rail as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the bainitic medium-alloy low-carbon steel forming the length of rail has a composition defined below:
 - 0.28% to 0.36% of carbon;

1.40% to 1.70% of manganese;
at most 0.03% of phosphorus;
0.01% to 0.03% of sulphur;
at most 0.005% of aluminium;
1% to 1.40% of silicon;
0.40% to 0.60% of chromium;
0.08% to 0.20% of molybdenum;
at most 0.04% of titanium; and
at most 0.004% of boron.